

Assisting with family law forms has been a staple service of the Milwaukee Justice Center since its inception in 1997. Now, *pro se* litigants no longer need to come only to the Milwaukee County Courthouse for this service.

Since October 2014, the Milwaukee Justice Center has been sending a family law forms volunteer to the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic every Wednesday evening at the United Community Center (730 W Washington St.). This helps facilitate the flow of client service, as those who only need forms help are moved into a separate, faster-moving queue, allowing those needing to see an attorney to do so more quickly themselves.

Leticia Morales, a Marquette University student and Milwaukee

native has been an MJC forms volunteer since January of 2014 and took on this new role. She signed up for the duty both because of her forms experience, and because she is able to help Spanish-speaking clients, who frequent the UCC clinic.

"It takes a little longer to help clients, since we don't have access to tools like CCAP that we do at the courthouse, and explaining steps for filing is a little more difficult since they can't walk out of the clinic and file that moment" Leticia says. "But I haven't had anyone come back saying they couldn't see these things through."

Leticia also says she's seen some more difficult issues come through there, and has taken them as a learning opportunity. ●



MJC Extends Family Forms Help to MVLC Clinic at United Community Center

OUR MISSION:

The Milwaukee Justice Center is a collaborative endeavor between Milwaukee County, the Milwaukee Bar Association, and Marquette University Law School. The MJC provides services to self-represented litigants with civil court matters. Self-represented individuals have a fundamental right to access the justice system even if they cannot afford an attorney, or do not qualify for legal aid.

Upcoming Events

MBA Memorial Service

Friday, May 29, 2015 - 12:00pm
Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 500

5th Annual MJC5K Run For Justice

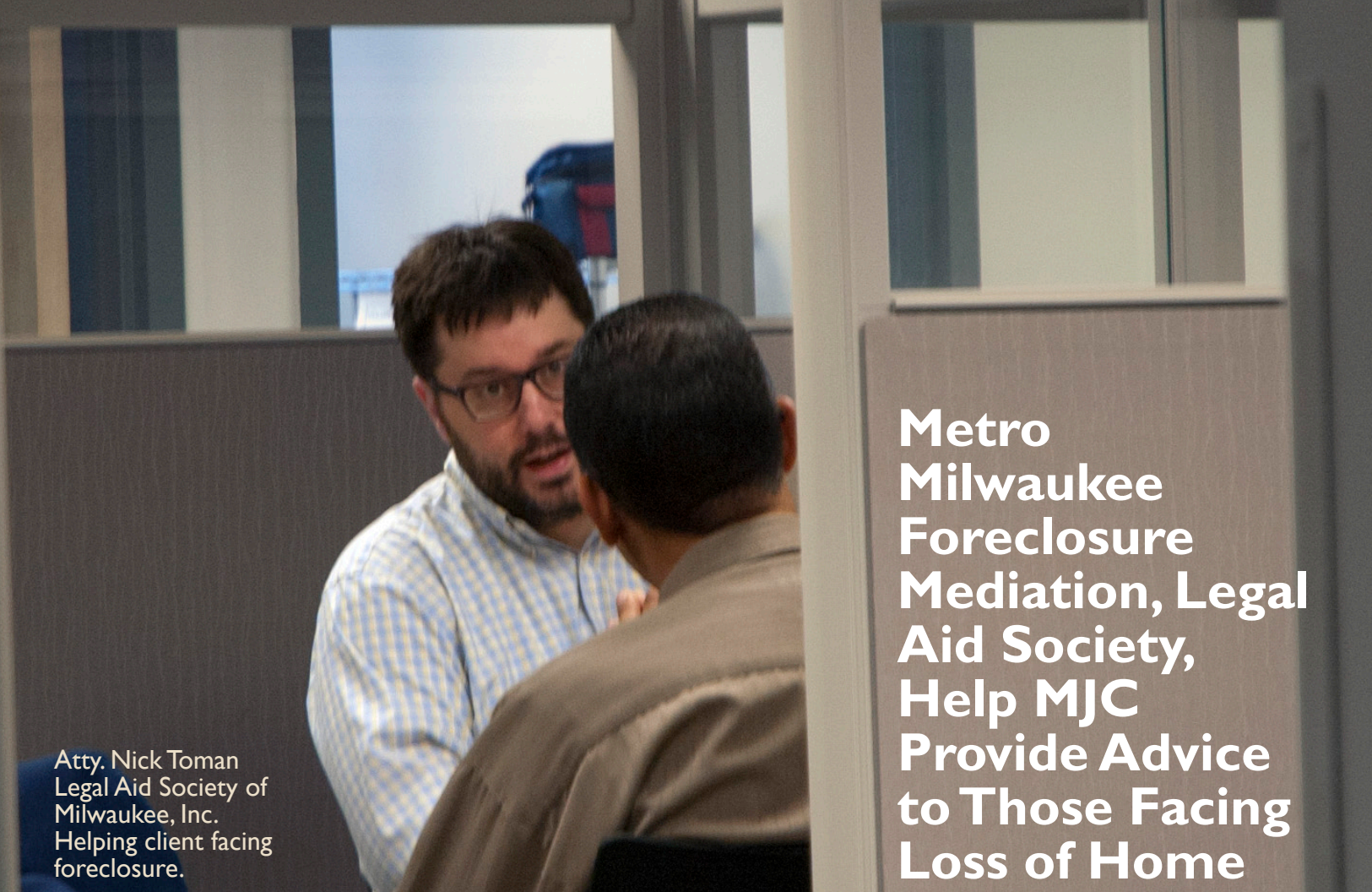
Wednesday, June 17, 2015 - 7:00pm
Veteran's Park
Chip timing is back for 5k runners!
Visit www.MilwaukeeJusticeCenter.org/MJC5k to enter!

MBA Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony

Thursday, June 18, 2015 - 12:00pm
Italian Community Center

MBA Annual Golf Outing

Wednesday, August 5, 2015
Fire Ridge Golf Club



Atty. Nick Toman
Legal Aid Society of
Milwaukee, Inc.
Helping client facing
foreclosure.

Metro Milwaukee Foreclosure Mediation, Legal Aid Society, Help MJC Provide Advice to Those Facing Loss of Home

While the foreclosure crisis in America has lessened some, a number of families still face the loss of their homes, especially here in Milwaukee.

While the Milwaukee and Wisconsin statewide housing market didn't get as hot as it did in some locales like South Florida, Phoenix, and Las Vegas, foreclosures have dropped slowly here, says data from CoreLogic.

According to RealtyTrac.com, the foreclosure rate in the Milwaukee area is sitting

at 0.07%, which is higher than Wisconsin's overall 0.06% rate, but lower than the national average of 0.09%.

Again, according to RealtyTrac, the foreclosure rate is worst in the 53218 Zip Code (including the neighborhoods of Silver Spring, Havenwood, McGovern Park, and Hampton Heights), with one out of every 458 homes being involved in a foreclosure, more than triple the citywide average of one in 1,416.

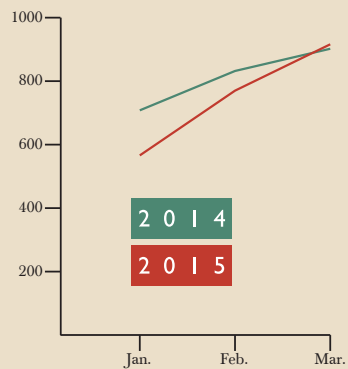
These trends led to a partnership of the Milwaukee Justice Center, the Metro Milwaukee Foreclosure Mediation Program, and the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, to provide regular, foreclosure-focused legal advice clinics in the MJC space each week.

Every Monday morning, for two hours, Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee provides an attorney to help talk people through their options and best route forward when facing a foreclosure.

Referrals to the clinic are made both by the Metro Milwaukee Foreclosure Mediation Program, and directly from the courts as well.

The timing of the clinic was chosen to take place late Monday mornings, as foreclosure hearings in Milwaukee County are usually scheduled for the first thing in the week.

The MJC is happy to have both MMFMP and LAS working with us. ●



Q1 2015 at a Glance... Clients Seen

Q1 2015: 2,252
vs. 2014: -7.8%
YTD: -7.8%
vs. Hist. Avg: +4.5%

The Milwaukee Justice Center remains 4.5% ahead of its historical 1st Quarter average.

A colder-than-average January, plus a first-ever closing of the Milwaukee County Courthouse to observe Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 19, slowed the pace of clients

seen in the first month of the year. However, February picked up and we had our best March ever, serving 916 people that month.

Overall, 1,807 people received help with forms at our walk-in clinics, while a further 445 individuals received brief legal advice from our MVLC clinics. ●

Tip of the Scale: Annulment and the MJC

Clients often ask about annulment when the spouses were only married a short time. Wis. Stat. sec. 763.313 sets grounds for annulment, but duration of marriage isn't one of them.

Unlike a divorce action that ends a valid marriage, annulment ends a marriage

that was never valid. Annulment grounds include:
1. One party lacking the capacity to consent to the marriage.
2. One party lacking the physical capacity to consummate the marriage.
3. One party was under 18 and did not have

parental consent.
4. Marriage is prohibited by other state law (see Wis. Stat. 737.313 (1) (a-d) for more).
Currently, no state-created forms exist for annulment, and Divorce forms may not be altered. Clients should be referred to available legal advice. ●



Volunteer Spotlight: Isaac Morris

Atty. Isaac Morris
Foley & Lardner

Isaac Morris, a Senior Counsel and business attorney at Foley & Lardner, has been

making time to volunteer at the MJC's Brief Legal Advice clinic for the past three years. Before becoming an attorney, Isaac worked as an auditor for the University of Utah.

Your practice revolves around business and employee benefits. Since we don't see much of that here, do you enjoy seeing different subjects here?

Yes, I do like seeing the more common issues people face. And I have learned a lot about how counties and local governments operate, what resources and help those entities provide,

and when and how to be creative.

And while all of that does serve as a nice escape for a couple of hours, I have also been fortunate enough to see a benefits issue come through twice in the past three years, which was fun as well.

What brought you to the Milwaukee Justice Center?

A colleague of mine recommended it as a great place to give back in a way that accommodated a busy schedule. Because the MJC is a brief legal advice clinic, I know that I will be assisting a number of individuals or families, but that the representation is not ongoing for the most part. That provides great

benefits to both the clients and the attorneys. It encourages clients to come because they know they can receive assistance, and it encourages attorneys to come because they know what time to set aside.

You've been here for about three years now. What's kept you coming back?

The staff, attorneys, and volunteers at the MJC. Everyone there works very hard and demonstrates a lot of devotion to the community. And there are attorneys from all walks of life and from both sides of the political aisle.

The student volunteers deserve special mention, and I've worked with a number of them who are truly outstanding. I walk in feeling good and leave feeling even better.

What's been your most rewarding experience at the MJC?

While far from my area of practice, I have enjoyed helping people with probate and estate planning matters. It always serves as a good reminder about the importance of wills and trusts, wherever possible, and of keeping others informed about your plans and intentions no matter what. But it also reminds me that people are more important than things.

What else should we know about you?

My wife, the love of my life, has played the harp since she was five, and graduated from Roosevelt University in Chicago with a Masters in Orchestral Performance. I lead with that fact as much as I can. ●

Mobile Legal Clinic Adds Service through Partnership with St. John's

The Milwaukee Justice Center's Mobile Legal Clinic has teamed up with St. John's Lutheran Church West (5500 West Greenfield Avenue in Milwaukee) and the Homeless Milwaukee Veterans' Initiative to bring a shortened Brief Legal Advice clinic to the church once per month.

On the fourth Thursday of the month, at least through September the

Milwaukee Justice Center Mobile Legal Clinic is visiting the church for two hours, from 8:00am until 10:00am during their community breakfast.

As with all Brief Legal Advice clinics, this one is run with the Marquette University Law School, and features attorneys from various firms, including solo and small firm practitioners.

MJC Executive Director Mary Ferwerda says the clinics have stayed busy,

and have even had to turn away a few clients.

MJC Legal Director Angela Cunningham, who has taken over much of the responsibility for managing the Mobile Legal Clinics, says she wants to turn the success of this particular clinic into one of many partnerships, giving the community a different way to access justice.

The goal is to have regularly scheduled stops at certain locations, similar to St. John's, to make the Clinic easier to find. ●



Family Law Forms Assistance:

Monday - Wednesday
8:30am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Thursday - Friday
8:30am - 12:00pm

Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic at the MJC Clinic Hours:

Thursday - Friday
Sign in at 1:30pm

Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic Family Law Advice Clinic Hours:

Monday - Wednesday
Sign in at 1:00pm

MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER
MJC QUARTERLY

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